

**Minutes of Special Meeting**  
**Coeur d' Alene Basin Restoration Partnership/Socioeconomics Analysis**  
**July 22, 2015**  
**8:30 a.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Pro Tem Dan Green and Commissioner Marc Eberlein met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Coeur d' Alene Basin Restoration Partnership Representatives Chip Corsi, Jo Christensen, and Kajsa Vanderiet. US Forest Service Economist Kristen Loughery joined the meeting by phone. Also present were WSU Graduate Student Brian Anderson and Deputy Clerk Theresa Atchley. Chairman David Stewart was excused.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Pro Tem Dan Green called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.
- B. Introductions:** All attendees introduced themselves.
- C. Changes to the Agenda:** There were no changes to the agenda.
- D. Old Business:** There was no old business discussed.
- E. New Business:**

**Introduction by Idaho Fish and Game Representative, Chip Corsi**

Coeur d' Alene (CdA) Basin Restoration Partnership Representative Chip Corsi said that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the economic aspect of the CdA Basin Restoration with US Forest Service Economist Kristen Loughery. He said that Ms. Loughery was completing a social and economic report to supplement the environmental impact statement in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and wanted the County's input regarding the CdA Basin Restoration.

**Discussion regarding Socioeconomic interests led by USDA Forest Service representative, Kristen Loughery**

Ms. Loughery asked the Board for their input regarding the CdA Basin Restoration as it relates to socioeconomic issues.

Chairman Pro Tem Green said that Kootenai County, unlike other northern Idaho counties, was not solely dependent on harvesting timber and had a wider economic base including industry that does not depend on the environment. However, he added the natural resources in Kootenai County attract people to the area, for a variety of reasons, such as fishing, water recreation, tourism, bird watching, and wildlife. Chairman Pro Tem Green said the economic impact of keeping this area attractive is vital to sustaining the County. He said he had seen some restoration in the lower basin, which included buying farmland and cleaning it up only to have the farmland re-flood and be re-contaminated; and he questioned the benefit.

Commissioner Marc Eberlein said that managing our forests was fundamental to the health of the County. He was very concerned about mining waste and the possibility that this waste could pollute our lakes and rivers. He strongly urged the Forest Service and all other entities that manage large amounts of timber to mitigate damage by harvesting and managing these forests. Commissioner Eberlein said he supports cleaning up the area first, so that restoration efforts are not in vain, and he outlined several clean up options. He said healthy forests and healthy water equals economic growth.

Ms. Loughery asked the Board how uses of natural resources had changed over time.

Chairman Pro Tem Green said that in the 1980s, this economy was based on resource extraction, like timber and mining, and other activities like fishing and boating were side benefits rather than the main attraction. Commissioner Eberlein mentioned the closure of several saw mills in the 1990s.

Ms. Loughery asked the Board how the use of natural resources affects vulnerable populations or communities within the County.

Chairman Pro Tem Green said that restoration projects protect our natural resources and this promotes economic development, which benefits all populations. Commissioner Eberlein said that improved water quality positively affects every resident in Kootenai County. The Board agreed that it was important to restore areas that would not be re-contaminated, using guidance from local jurisdictions, and focusing on long-term goals.

**F. Public Comment:** This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County related issue. There was no public comment.

Chairman Pro Tem Green adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

DAN GREEN, CHAIRMAN PRO TEM

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Theresa Atchley, Deputy Clerk

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